

DEC 19 1956

Approved For Release 2000/06/13 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300190073-7
CPYRGHT

DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING

Mr. Nehru Looked Genial and Healthy

By SKIWA ROOSEVELT

"He's so healthy looking. I thought he would be more ascetic," a woman was overheard exclaiming to her companion.

She was referring to Prime Minister Nehru of India and she was observing him as were 1,000 other Washingtonians at a reception given yesterday by the Indian Ambassador and Mme. Mehta at their Washington street embassy.

The Prime Minister did indeed look healthy as he stood in the receiving line with the Mehtas and his daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. What's more, he seemed in very good spirits, almost bouncy you might say, despite the ordeal of shaking hands and listening to the trivia of party conversation.

Even the presence of a battalion of photographers (the largest number this reporter has ever seen at a Washington party) didn't bother him, with their endless flashbulbs going off and the constant whirr of movie cameras every time a VIP went down the line.

Circulated Among Guests

The Prime Minister is a man of tremendous energy and after the first half-hour of the party, he obviously got tired of standing in one place all the time so he decided to circulate in the large drawing room for the rest of the evening. There he walked back and forth, talking to everyone who wanted to come up and chat, followed by photographers and reporters, completely unruffled by the jamming around him.

At one point in the receiving line, Mr. Nehru started to yawn. Suddenly he looked at the photographers facing him, poised for action, and quickly stifled it, exclaiming to everyone's amusement:

"If you take a picture of me when I'm yawning, that's not so good."

As soon as he left the line, the Prime Minister was asked by a representative of the Indian radio to record a few words, but Mr. Nehru waved him aside saying:

"No, nothing for India. I'm always there."

Then the society reporters approached him and he looked somewhat startled.

"Don't ask me any social questions," he said laughingly. But when they tried some loaded political ones, such as "How did you like so with the President," he begged off with a smile.

The photographers pursued him to the end of the room where he took a glass of non-alcoholic punch. That was a great mistake, for immediately he was asked to drink another and another and another, while the cameras flashed until finally he pleaded for mercy.

Unorthodox Photographer

Incidentally, there was one very unexpected photographer in the group—Mrs. Wilber Brucker, wife of the Secretary of the Army, took pictures by the dozens. And the Secretary who was seen carrying a bulging briefcase which one supposed was loaded with state secrets, actually was carrying the flashbulbs for her!

As one might expect, the turnout for such a party was tremendous. And the Prime Minister greeted many, old friends. For Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, who was accompanied by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, he had a particularly hearty greeting and they seemed to enjoy a good laugh.

For Archduchess Yolande he had a kiss. Her father, Prince de Ligne of Belgium, was formerly his country's Ambassador to India and she is an old friend of Mr. Nehru.

Mrs. Gandhi had a warm greeting for Mrs. Harold Gosnell of Bethesda, who taught her when she was in the fourth grade in Geneva. Mrs. Gosnell now teaches at Sidwell Friends.

Many VIPs Attend

Among the luminaries who attended were nearly all the chiefs of mission of the diplomatic corps or their representatives if the Ambassadors happened to be out of town.

Also seen in the throng were Mrs. Merriweather Post, making a dazzling entrance with her bright red feathered hat;

Senator-elect and Mrs. John Sherman Cooper, she looking equally dazzling in a dark taffeta dress with matching hat and ruby and diamond jewels; Mrs. Allen Dulles and Mrs. Eleanor Dulles, Chief Justice Warren, Justice and Mrs. Burton, Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton, the Ellsworth Bunkers "Auntie" Secretary of State, and Mrs. Robert Hill, Mr. Harold Stassen, Admiral and Mrs. Arthur Burke, former Ambassador Joseph Davies, the Walter Lippmanns, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips, Dean Acheson, Senator and Mrs. Fulbright, Mrs. Robert Longworth, White House Press Secretary James Hagerty, Mrs. Maxwell Baile, Senator John Sparkman, the Robert Amorys, Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Damon and Mr. Edgar Morris.

A STATE DINNER following the Mehtas' reception, had the Prime Minister and Mrs. Gandhi operating on a second schedule.

Their hosts were the Secretary of State and Mrs. Dulles who staged an elaborate dinner at the Pan American Union.

Guests dined on cream of chicken soup a la reine, lobster thermidor with sliced cucumbers, pheasant with fresh string beans, Parisienne potatoes and pate de foie gras, lettuce and water cress salad with chopped egg and tomato, French dressing, and for dessert, French vanilla ice cream with brandied pears.

Among those attending this blue ribbon affair were the Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren, Senator Theodore Green, Senator and Mrs. Alexander Wiley, Senator-elect and Mrs. John Sherman Cooper, Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Humphrey, Secretary of Commerce and Mrs. Sinclair Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Adams, and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Mrs. Lewis Strauss.

From the Prime Minister's party were Mr. N. R. Pillai, Secretary General, of the

Ministry of External Affairs (India; Mr. M. O. Mathai, special assistant to Mr. Nehru; the Indian Ambassador and Mme. Mehta and the Indian Minister and Mme. Dayal.

Still others invited were the Director of Central Intelligence and Mrs. Allen Dulles, Undersecretary of State and Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Jr., the Undersecretary of the United Nations and Mrs. Ralph Bunche, Mr. Paul Hoffman and Mrs. Oswald Lord of the United States Mission to the U. N., and Mr. Lord, Mr. Richard Lee Jones, alternate representative to the U. N., and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, former Ambassador to India, William Phillips, Ambassador-designate to India, and Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker and the new head of USIA and Mrs. Arthur Larson.

Gen. Alfred Gruenther was also among the guests, as were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnston, the Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Art and Mrs. John Walker, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, III, the Very Rev. William J. Schmidt, S. J., of Oak Park, Ill., Mrs. Kenneth Seggerman of New York City and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fish Armstrong. (Mr. Armstrong is editor of Foreign Affairs.)

The varied guest list also included Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Mrs. Clinchy; Dr. Arthur Compton of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Compton; head of the AFL-CIO George Meany, Mrs. Nicholas

Longworth, Dr. Frederick Nolde, Dean of the graduate school, Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Nolde, and Mrs. Edwin J. Hilson of New York City. Still more were Mr. and Mrs.

Ogden Reid, Dr. Howard Hanson, director of the Eastman School of Music, and Mrs. Hanson; Dr. William G. Saltonstall, head of Phillips-Exeter Academy, and Mrs. Saltonstall; Mr. Paul Manship, a

sculptor, and Mrs. Manship; Mr. Wilton Lloyd Smith of New York City, Dr. Wallace Atwood, Jr., of the National Academy of Sciences, and Mrs. Atwood; Mr. Eustace Seligman, a New York attorney, and Mrs. Seligman.

Concluding the list were the Deputy Undersecretary of State and Mrs. Loy Henderson, Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. William Rountree, Chief of Protocol and Mrs. John Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. John Hightower of the Associated Press, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Hensley of the United Press and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Singer of the International News Service.